## REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of the present application in view of the foregoing amendments and in view of the reasons that follow. Claims 1 and 3-12 are amended. Applicant respectfully submits that no new matter has been added to the application. Claim 2 was canceled in a previous response. After amending the claims as set forth above, Claims 1 and 3-12 are now pending in this application.

### I. Claim Objections

In section 1 of the Office Action, Claim 3 was objected to for use of the phrase 'capable of.' Claim 3 does not include the phrase 'capable of.' Applicant believes that the Examiner meant to object to Claim 6, which previously recited "a connection manager capable of connecting a source and a destination." Applicant has amended Claim 6 to recite "a connection manager configured to...." (Emphasis added). Accordingly, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the objection.

### II. Claim Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a)

In section 2 of the Office Action, Claims 1 and 3-12 were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over United States Patent No. 6,611,519 to Howe (hereinafter "Howe") in view of United States Patent No. 6,763,010 to Piirainen et al. (hereinafter "Piirainen"). Applicant respectfully submits that the rejection is moot in view of the claim amendments.

Claim 1, as currently amended, recites:

> identifying a plurality of nodes which form a communication path between a source and a destination, wherein the plurality of nodes includes a first node and a second node;
>
> receiving, at the first node, a signal from the source, wherein the signal is part of a signal stream comprising a plurality of signals which are received at a rate of one signal per time interval;
>
> identifying, based at least in part on a bandwidth between the first node and the second node, a second time interval, wherein

the second time interval occurs within the time interval following receipt of the signal; and

transmitting the signal from the first node to the second node without a buffering delay, wherein the signal is transmitted during the second time interval.

Claim 3, as currently amended, recites a system comprising:

a first node and a second node along a communication path between a source and a destination, wherein the first node is configured to receive a signal from the source, wherein the signal is part of a signal stream comprising a plurality of signals which are received at a rate of one signal per time interval; and

a connection manager configured to identify, based at least in part on a bandwidth between the first node and the second node, a second time interval, wherein the second time interval occurs within the time interval following receipt of the signal;

wherein the first node is further configured to transmit the signal to the second node during the second time interval and without a buffering delay.

Claim 6, as currently amended, recites a system comprising:

a first Internet connected node and a second Internet connected node, wherein the first Internet connected node is configured to receive a signal from a source, and further wherein the signal is part of a signal stream comprising a plurality of signals which are received by the first Internet connected node at a rate of one signal per time interval; and

a connection manager configured to

identify a communication path between the source and a destination, wherein the communication path includes the first Internet connected node and the second Internet connected node; and

identify, based at least in part on a transmission link bandwidth, a second time interval within the time interval following receipt of the signal, wherein the first Internet connected node is configured to transmit the signal to the second Internet connected node during the second time interval without a route calculation delay, and further wherein the

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> second Internet connected node is configured to transmit the signal to a third Internet connected node along the communication path during the second time interval and without the route calculation delay.

Applicant respectfully submits that, alone or in combination, <u>Howe</u> and <u>Piirainen</u> fail to teach "receiving ... a signal ... wherein the signal is part of a signal stream comprising a plurality of signals which are **received at a rate of one signal per time interval**," "**identifying,** <u>based at least in part on a bandwidth</u> between the first node and the second node, **a second time interval,** wherein **the second time interval occurs within the time interval following receipt of the signal**," and "<u>transmitting the signal ... during the second time interval</u>," as recited in Claim 1. (Emphasis added). Claims 3 and 6 recite similar elements.

<u>Howe</u> is directed toward a "system and method ... for synchronizing store-and-forward networks and for scheduling and transmitting ... real-time and high-priority messages over those networks." (Abstract). <u>Howe</u> discloses a "reservation scheduler" which receives "a reservation message" for an event and "looks at the layer one event schedule to determine whether the event can be scheduled." (Col. 36, lines 4-8). "Based on the layer one event schedule," the reservation scheduler "either schedules the event, tentatively schedules the event, makes the event available again, or does nothing." (Col. 36, lines 10-12). If the event is scheduled, <u>Howe</u> discloses that a "controller 120 uses control lines 125 to cause non-blocking, non-delaying switch 150 to route the layer one packet, cell, or frame directly from the line 57, through the switch 150 and out the correct line 67. (Col. 28, lines 57-60). The "controller 120 also positions switches 65 and 70 respectively such that the scheduled layer one packet, cell, or frame routes through from ... switch 150 on line 67 through switch 65 to the buffer bypass line 77, out switch 79 to output line Out₁ 81 and on to the next layer one switch which repeats the process." (Col. 28, lines 61-67).

Thus, <u>Howe</u> is directed toward a system in which a reservation scheduler schedules transmissions of packets based on available switches. <u>Howe</u> fails to mention a system or process in which a <u>second time interval</u> for transmission of the signal <u>is identified based on a bandwidth</u> between nodes, where the <u>second time interval occurs within a time interval</u>

following receipt of the signal, and further where <u>the time interval is based on a rate at which signals of a signal stream are received</u>, as required by Claims 1, 3, and 6.

Piirainen is directed toward "a multiplexing method and a transceiver used in a TDMA radio system." (Abstract). Piirainen discloses that "interleaving means 30 form four 114-bit signal blocks from the 456-bit signal it has received." (Col. 3, lines 63-65). "The signal blocks formed by the interleaving means 30 are supplied to the multiplexing means 35, which multiplex at least two 114-bit signal blocks that have been interleaved ...." (Col. 3, line 66 – col. 4, line 1). Piirainen further discloses that "[t]he interleaved blocks can be transmitted in the same burst since the modulation means 40 use multilevel modulation." (Col. 4, lines 4-6).

Thus, Piirainen is directed toward a system for using interleaving and multiplexing to prepare signals for burst transmission. Piirainen fails to teach, suggest, or describe a system or process in which a <u>second time interval</u> for transmission of the signal <u>is identified based on a bandwidth</u> between nodes, where the <u>second time interval occurs within a time interval following receipt of the signal</u>, and further where <u>the time interval is based on a rate at which signals of a signal stream are received</u>, as required by Claims 1, 3, and 6.

For at least these reasons, Applicant respectfully submits that the combination of Howe and Piirainen fail to teach or suggest each of the elements of Claims 1, 3, and 6. Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 1, 3, and 6. For at least the same reasons, Applicant respectfully requests withdrawal of the rejection of Claims 10 and 11, which depend from Claim 1, Claims 4, 5, and 12, which depend from Claim 3, and Claims 7-9, which depend from Claim 6.

Applicant believes that the present application is now in condition for allowance. Favorable reconsideration of the application as amended is respectfully requested.
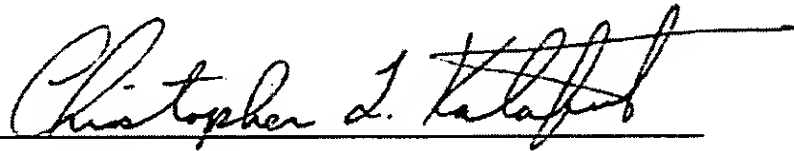
The Examiner is invited to contact the undersigned by telephone if it is felt that a telephone interview would advance the prosecution of the present application.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge any additional fees which may be required regarding this application under 37 C.F.R. §§ 1.16-1.17, or credit any overpayment, to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. Should no proper payment be enclosed herewith, as by a check or credit card payment form being in the wrong amount, unsigned, post-dated, otherwise improper or informal or even entirely missing, the Commissioner is authorized to charge the unpaid amount to Deposit Account No. 19-0741. If any extensions of time are needed for timely acceptance of papers submitted herewith, Applicant hereby petitions for such extension under 37 C.F.R. §1.136 and authorizes payment of any such extensions fees to Deposit Account No. 19-0741.

Respectfully submitted,

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